

standard of excellence. Under Mr. Englett's direction, sports complexes were constructed, a strength center was erected, the gymnasium was renovated, and intercollegiate athletics were reinstated, after nearly 12 years of their absence.

In addition to his outstanding modifications to student life, Mr. Englett developed the Raider Club to supplement institutional scholarship assistance. In just 13 years, the Raider Club has raised over \$1 million in fundraising and has substantially increased scholarship aid.

During his tenure at Okaloosa-Walton, Mr. Englett expanded college athletics to encompass much more than sports. He devised a plan for gender equity, increased graduation rates, and because of his efforts, saw his team win 14 Panhandle Conference Championships. His fusion of athletics into college life elevated the school from academic excellence to overall distinction.

Northwest Florida is greatly indebted to Mr. Englett's foresight and ingenuity. His immense dedication to the community has led to an increased enrollment at Okaloosa-Walton College and a greater academic environment.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, I am proud to recognize Michael K. Englett on his outstanding achievements and exemplary service in Okaloosa County and northwest Florida.

TRIBUTE TO LANCE CORPORAL
GENTIAN MARKU

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I want to pay tribute to a hero, LCpl Gentian Marku of Warren, Michigan. Today, I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this exceptional young man who died serving his country.

Gentian Marko immigrated with his family to the United States in 1997, at the height of civil unrest in Albania. Once arriving in the United States, Gentian left behind his troubled childhood, and became the intelligent, diligent, and responsible young man that we know. After graduating from Warren Woods Tower High School in 2001, Gentian had hoped to become a police officer. At the recommendation of his father, a former first captain in the Albanian military police, Gentian joined the Marine Corps to help his chances at acceptance to the police academy.

After enlisting in the Marines in August 2002, Gentian was assigned to the First Battalion, Marine Expeditionary Force. In 2003, Gentian returned to Albania during a 2-week exercise with the Marines and served as a translator during meetings with the Albanian military and civilian leaders. Gentian had said it was one of his proudest moments being able to do something for both of his countries.

On November 25, 2004, Lance Corporal Marku was killed in action in Fallujah, Iraq, in the Anbar province. At the time, the Marines had awarded him medals for good conduct, humanitarian service, combat action and other activities.

My thoughts, prayers, and deepest gratitude for their sacrifice go to Gentian's family. There are no words that can relieve their pain and I

can only offer to convey my deep respect and highest appreciation.

Madam Speaker, Lance Corporal Marku gave the ultimate sacrifice not only for the freedom and security of his family and our country, but for the people of Iraq. I wish to remember his bravery, conviction, and selflessness as he is honored today.

CONGRATULATING WILLIAM P.
BURKE, THE RECIPIENT OF THE
GREATER PITTSSTON FRIENDLY
SONS OF ST. PATRICK 2008
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to William P. Burke, of West Pittston, Pennsylvania, who is the 2008 recipient of the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick Achievement Award.

He graduated in 1956 from St. John's High School in Pittston and later from the Wilkes-Barre Business College where he majored in finance and accounting.

Mr. Burke served in the U.S. Army, First Armored Division, Fort Hood, Texas, from 1961 to 1963. Mr. Burke has been an active member of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick for 52 years.

President Harry S. Truman was guest speaker at the first Friendly Sons banquet Mr. Burke attended. Mr. Burke is a sustaining member and past president of the organization. He was the recipient of the Man of the Year Award in 1991.

Mr. Burke is a charter member of the Wolfe Tone Luzerne County Division I Ancient Order of Hibernians and is presently chairman of the standing committee. He is a member of the President John F. Kennedy Council 372 Knights of Columbus and its Fourth Degree, serving as comptroller for the past 40 years. He is also a member of the Knights of Columbus Choir.

Mr. Burke is a member of St. Casimir, St. John the Baptist, St. John the Evangelist, and St. Joseph Parish, Pittston, where he serves as an usher and a senior altar server. He is also a member of the parish finance council.

Mr. Burke has been a baseball coach in the West Pittston Little League and a basketball coach for the Wyoming Area Catholic High School.

He has served as chairman of the West Pittston Democrat Organization and he is a former member of the Luzerne County Democrat Executive Committee. He also served as parade chairman for the Pittston Tomato Festival.

Mr. Burke is a member of Fox Hill Country Club and the West Side Social Club, Avoca. After 37 years of employment with Pope and Talbot Company, he served for several years as director of purchasing for Luzerne County, a post from which he retired in 2006.

Mr. Burke and his wife, Nora, are the parents of three children. They also have nine grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Burke on the occasion of this

special honor. Mr. Burke's dedication to family and community has improved the quality of life and highlighted the value of service above self.

HONOR THE LIFE OF LIEUTENANT
RAFAEL VAZQUEZ

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lieutenant Rafael Vazquez of the Palm Beach Fire Rescue. Known as "Ray," this brave firefighter died tragically on Monday, March 3, as a result of a random shooting in West Palm Beach, Florida.

The details of Lt. Vazquez's death are heartbreaking. The 42-year-old lieutenant had just finished eating lunch with his wife, Michele, and their 4-year-old son when, ever the caring parent, Ray decided to go back inside the restaurant to exchange a toy that had come with his child's meal.

It was a fateful decision. Once inside, Ray was met by a deranged gunman, Auburn Edward Blake, who opened fire. When it was over, Lt. Vazquez lay dead and four others were injured. Then Auburn Edward Blake turned the gun on himself.

Ray's life was one of tireless dedication toward protecting his fellow citizens. Formerly a firefighter with the town of Lake Park, he was hired by the Palm Beach Fire Rescue in February 2001 and was promoted to Rescue Lieutenant in January 2007. He had been assigned to Rescue 28 in Royal Palm Beach, Florida. Lt. Vazquez is survived by his wife Michele, an officer with Palm Springs Public Safety, and their 5 children, ages 4–21.

In closing, I think the best way to honor Ray's life in Congress is to let his wife Michele speak for him in her own words. She says, "I don't understand why these horrible things happen. But no horrible thing can take away our memories. My husband was an outstanding father and the most giving husband. He was my best friend; I'm going to miss him so much."

A dedicated firefighter, father, and human being, Lt. Ray Vazquez deserves all the honor and praise this distinguished body can bestow upon him.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL
LAND ASSISTANCE, MANAGE-
MENT, AND ENHANCEMENT ACT
(FLAME ACT)

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act, or the FLAME Act.

Last year, our country saw the devastating effects of catastrophic, emergency wildland fires in southern California. For the past several years, we have witnessed tragic fire seasons that have put American lives and our